10/22/91

Frederick Magazine

Yesterday Debbie Niles of the magazine asked me to do a piece for the December issue on the Stone movie and what I think happened in the JFK assassination. I told her the latter could imply some theoretical solution and I would have nothing to do with that. I explained why we do not know the truth, etc., and suggested a modification that she thought would be OK. I took the enclosed to her lunchtime today. We had a pleasant lunch and chatted for a while. Later she told me she had showed it to the publisher and they would not publish it because it is libellous. I said it isn't at all. She then said well, they were really afraid of having the costs of a frivolous libel suit to pay. I said I can unserstand that, and do, assuming there is any prospect that one might be filed, as there sure as hell isn't.

She asked me to do a piece on myself, how I got into this, what I have done, etc., and as I had told her earlier, I have no interest in personal publicity and I declined.

When I agreed to give her a rought draft, all I agreed to, and when I gave it to her, I told her to feel free to cut it as they see fit., the same with editing, anything.

They are, I think, really afraid of anything at all significant or controversial, because if there had been anything even close to libel it could have been cut.

While at lunch Debbie told me that she likes my writing because it is direct. (I am not aware that she has read my books so I suppose she had the letters to the editor and oped pieces in the local papers.)

This does not seem to be consistent with fear of an unlikely libel suit where there was no libel.